

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01
DHA-02 /061 W
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R 071751Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1328
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03808

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, HU, UK
SUBJECT: LONDON VISIT BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
PUJA

REF: MUNICH 644 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2 OFFICIAL VISIT OF
HUNGARIAN FONMIN PUJA PASSED ALMOST UNNOTICED IN THE
BRITISH PRESS. PUJA MET WITH PM CALLAGHAN, FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN, AND TRADE SECRETARY DELL, BUT LITTLE
OF SUBSTANCE EMERGED FROM THE VISIT, WHICH THE FCO
DESCRIBED AS STRICTLY ROUTINE. THE ONLY DOCUMENT
TO COME OUT OF THE VISIT WAS A RATHER BLAND JOINT
COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA MADE AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO LONDON ON FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2; THE VISIT,
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WHICH HAD TWICE BEEN SCHEDULED AND POSTPONED IN 1976,
WAS IN RETURN FOR A VISIT MADE TO BUDAPEST BY THEN
FOREIGN SECRETARY (AND NOW PRIME MINISTER) JAMES
CALLAGHAN IN 1975. PUJA WAS RECEIVED BY CALLAGHAN,
FOREIGN SECRETARY DR. DAVID OWEN, AND TRADE SECRETARY
EDMUND DELL.

2. FCO EAST EUROPEAN AND SOVIET DEPARTMENT (FIGGIS) TOLD US THAT CALLAGHAN'S MEMORY OF PUJA FROM 1975 WAS OF A THOROUGHLY UNPLEASANT AND INTRACTABLE HARD-LINER; THIS TIME AROUND, CALLAGHAN FOUND PUJA JUST AS MUCH A HARD-LINER; BUT LESS OBJECTIONABLE PERSONALLY.

3. AS THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING, MAJOR BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE UK AND HUNGARY, PUJA'S MEETINGS WITH CALLAGHAN AND OWEN WERE DEVOTED/TO A PREDICTABLE EXCHANGE OF WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, CSCE, AND MBFR. WITH DELL, PUJA MADE A STRONG APPEAL FOR AN END TO BRITISH "DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST HUNGARIAN IMPORTS.

4. ON A LOWER LEVEL, THE BRITISH PUSHED PUJA FOR A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT HUNGARIANS COULD FREELY CALL UPON THE BRITISH CULTURAL ATTACHE IN BUDAPEST, AS HMG APPARENTLY HAD REPORTS THAT THE HUNGARIAN REGIME HAD CIRCULATED A CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTION THAT SUCH CALLS WERE TO BE DISCOURAGED. PUJA REPLIED THAT "OF COURSE" THERE WERE NO SUCH RESTRICTIONS, BUT HE CRAFTILY REFUSED TO INCLUDE SUCH A GUARANTEE IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT TO DO SO WOULD IMPLY THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANCE TO A NON-EXISTENT PROBLEM.

5. NO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT, THE ONLY DOCUMENT TO EMERGE BEING A RATHER BLAND COMMUNIQUE. SOME MILD WRESTLING ON THE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE COMMUNIQUE WENT ON RIGHT UP TO THE END OF THE VISIT, AND THE BRITISH WERE SATISFIED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED THE PHRASE, "THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AS A PROCESS WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN UNIVERSAL APPLICATION . . ."

6. THE BRITISH PRESS VIRTUALLY IGNORED THE VISIT, WITH ONLY PERFUNCTORY, INSIDE-PAGE COVERAGE BEING GIVEN. ALTHOUGH, AS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DUTIFULLY REPORTED, PUJA MADE THE RITUAL RETURN INVITATION TO OWEN, AND OWEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, FCO HAS TOLD US THAT OWEN HAS NO PLANS TO TRAVEL TO HUNGARY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

7. GIVEN THE LONG ADVANCE SCHEDULING OF THE VISIT, AND PARTICULARLY THE INDICATION (PARA 2 ABOVE) THAT CALLAGHAN AND PUJA WERE ON SOMETHING LESS THAN "GOOD PERSONAL TERMS SINCE DAYS WHEN BOTH WERE FONMINS," WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT JAPANESE EMBOFF'S VERSION

OF REASONS FOR VISIT, AS REPORTED REFTEL.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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